

Course Disclosure : U.S. and Va. Honors Government-Teacher: Ms. Tracy Ferguson

Course Description: This class leads to an understanding of the origins and workings of the American and Virginia political systems. It focuses on the United States and Virginia Constitutions; the structure and operation of United States and Virginia governments; and the process of policy making, with emphasis on economics, foreign affairs, and civil rights issues.

The class teaches the impact of the general public, political parties, interest groups, the media, and events on government. American political and economic systems are examined in regards to their historical development and compared to those of other nations, with emphasis on the relationships between economic and political freedoms. Students in Honors Government class will be engaged in dialogue and writing that involves the critical thinking skills of analysis and synthesis.

Course Textbook: American Government Holt, Rinehart, & Winston, 2003

Course Requirements: To satisfactorily complete this course the student will be able to demonstrate competency by earning a grade point average through evaluations of classwork, homework, quizzes, test, projects, and exams.

Standards of Learning: The Standards of Learning for this class are printed on the back of this paper. Also, Virginia Standards of Learning for Government can be accessed at: <http://www.doe.virginia/> There is no SOL test for the class.

Grades: 80% of student pre-exam nine weeks grades will come from the following weighted categories:
Tests / Projects 55% Quizzes / Assignments 30% Homework 15%

20% of the final nine weeks grade comes from nine week examination.

The final end of course grade will be the average of the two nine weeks grades.

Make up work from an absence will be graded in accordance with school policy.

MAKEUP WORK & LATE WORK :

A student who misses assigned work due to an absence should arrange to make up work within five (5) days of absence.

An assignment with a due date made prior to the absence is due upon the student's return to school.

Teachers may use professional discretion in rescheduling any important test(s) for a student who missed essential class review during the absence. A one-time penalty of fifteen points may be assessed for late work.

Upon the student missing an assignment deadline, the teacher will contact the parent to establish a new final deadline. A teacher must speak directly with a parent prior to assigning a zero for any major assignment.

Note: Permanent 0s on assignments can have a serious effect on a student's average. The student may have a 0 as the result of missed work from a recent absence. Since the work may still be made up, then he/she must speak with me immediately.

Grade Scale: 100 - 93 A 92 - 90 A- 89 - 87 B+ 86 - 83 B 82-80 B- 79 - 77 C+ 76 - 73 C 72 - 70 C 69 - 65 D 64 and below F

Course Materials: Each day students are required to bring to class their textbook, their notebooks including accumulated notes in at least a 2" binder, 2 packs lined index cards, unused loose-leaf paper, pens, highlighter, and pencils. **No spiral notebooks.**

CLASSROOM RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Tardies count.
2. Students must put all purses and backpacks under desk and begin **bellwork** upon entering class.
3. When the teacher is talking-the student is not.
4. Student will bring materials to class daily. **Teacher will not supply pens, pencils, or paper.**
5. No food or drink allowed in class.
6. Participation is required for student's success in individual and group work.

7. Cell phone and electronic device rules will be followed and appropriate discipline will result with violations.
8. Students will not throw anything in class.
9. Teacher, student, and school property will be treated with respect.
10. Student must ask permission before moving about the room.

Tutoring: Tutoring will be available Wednesdays between 3:00 and 4:00.

Contact: Email tferguson@iwcs.k12.va.us. Phone-357-3108

Website: <https://tferguson3.wikispaces.com>

Virginia Standards of Learning for U. S. and Virginia Government:

- 12.1 - The student will compare the United States constitutional system in 1789 with forms of democracy that developed in ancient Greece and Rome, in England, and in the American colonies and states in the 18th century.
- 12.2 - The student will identify examples of fundamental American political principles contained in the Virginia Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and the Federalist Papers, and will compare them to principles of government and law developed by leading European political thinkers such as Locke, Hobbes, Montesquieu, Rousseau, and Blackstone.
- 12.3 - The student will analyze the amendments to the United States Constitution in terms of the conflicts they addressed and the reasons for their adoption.
- 12.4 - The student will summarize landmark Supreme Court interpretations of the United States Constitution and its amendments, with emphasis on basic freedoms, due process, equal protection of the law, and government powers, and will analyze the historical trends and contemporary patterns of United States Supreme Court decisions.
- 12.5 - The student will identify and explain fundamental concepts of democracy, with emphasis placed on equality of all citizens under the law, the fundamental worth and dignity of the individual, majority rule and minority rights, the necessity of compromise, individual freedom and the rule of law.
- 12.6 - The student will analyze in writing, discussion, and debate current issues confronting local, state, and national governments in terms of perennial challenges to democracies.
- 12.7 - The student will analyze and compare national and state governments.
- 12.8 - The student will explain how United States and Virginia legislative, executive, and judicial institutions make public policy.
- 12.9 - The student will identify and distinguish among the units of local governments in Virginia, including counties, cities, towns, and regional authorities and will analyze a local public issue.
- 12.10 - The student will explain and give current examples of how political parties, interest groups, the media, and individuals influence the policy agenda and decision making of government institutions.
- 12.11 - The student will describe campaigns for national, state, and local elective office.
- 12.12 - The student will explain the rights, responsibilities, and benefits of citizenship in the United States and Virginia.
- 12.13 - The student will develop the skills needed for informed participation in public affairs.
- 12.14 - The student will compare the United States political and economic systems with those of major democratic and authoritarian nations.
- 12.15 - The student will analyze the United States market economy.
- 12.16 - The student will analyze the role of government in the United States economy.
- 12.17 - The student will evaluate the effect of monetary and fiscal policies on personal economic well-being including employment opportunities, purchasing power, credit and interest rates, and opportunities for investment and savings.
- 12.18 - The student will define common economic terms, including productivity, recession, depression, the business cycle, and inflation, and explain and interpret indicators of economic performance, including gross domestic product, consumer price index, unemployment rate, balance of trade, and stock market averages.

Student signature _____ Parent/Guardian signature _____